



# Faizul H. Ibrahim

ANTHROPOLOGIST | PHD FELLOW



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Gender: Male  
DOB: 7/8/1990  
Nationality: Bruneian

## Introduction

I am an anthropologist and a PhD fellow at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAAS), Kyoto University. I am pursuing a career in academia and my research interest is in ethnicity, ethnic identity, Borneo studies, Dusun studies, social class, and food anthropology.

## Research Work & Political Experiences

### **Research Assistant to Special Academic Advisor**

Universiti Brunei Darussalam | 2019-2021

- Conducted anthropological research on Dusun identity and community in Brunei
- Worked under the supervision of Special Academic Advisor Professor Dr Tong Chee Kiong, in close collaboration with Professor Dr Lian Kwen Fee and Dr Yabit Alas
- Reviewed and synthesized extensive academic literature
- Transcribed qualitative data and co-authored scholarly research papers
- Carried out fieldwork in the Tutong District, building a grassroots network of community informants
- Contributed to the production of a series of academic papers on the ethnic Dusun of Brunei

### **Research Assistant**

Centre for Advanced Research (CARe) | 2018-2019

- Supported a multidisciplinary research centre commissioned by both public and private sector stakeholders
- Contributed to research initiatives across three core clusters: Youth & Economy, Welfare & Poverty, and Health & Aging
- Specialised exclusively in the Health & Aging research project, focusing on elderly populations
- Conducted extensive fieldwork in the Belait and Brunei-Muara districts, engaging directly with senior citizens
- Led and carried out in-depth interviews with elderly participants, collecting qualitative data to inform research outcomes

### **Research Assistant**

Institute of Asian Studies (Universiti Brunei Darussalam) | 2015

- Assisted Professor Dr Lian Kwen Fee on the research project "South Asian Migrant Workers in Brunei: A Sociological Study of Temporary Labour Migration" under the Institute of Asian Studies
- Identified, recruited, and interviewed informants in qualitative interviews to gather firsthand data for the sociological field research
- Transcribed interview recordings accurately, ensuring data integrity for analysis and publication

### **Political Intern (Department of Politics One)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs | 2013

- Wrote daily political intelligence reports on Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and Australia for the Department of Politics One
- Supported departmental work during Brunei's ASEAN Chairmanship (2013), contributing to high-level regional proceedings
- Assisted in the administration and coordination of ASEAN meetings and diplomatic summits, ensuring smooth execution
- Drafted meeting agendas and official visit programmes for ASEAN-related events
- Coordinated flight and logistical planning for official delegations
- Conducted in-depth research on ASEAN institutions, member states, and regional affairs to support departmental operations

## Other Career Highlights

I am balancing my Ph.D. responsibilities with ongoing teaching as an English-language educator in Japan. I bring extensive cross-sector experience spanning advertising, digital marketing, copywriting, politics, and qualitative research. In addition, I am a certified trainer in peacebuilding and development (UNESCO) and gender dialogue (UN Women).

# Education Background

## **Kyoto University**

### **Ph.D. Southeast Asian Area Studies | 2022-Present**

Attending the Division of Southeast Asian Area Studies, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAAS)

### **MA Southeast Asian Area Studies | 2024**

Awarded a Master's degree under the 5-year integrated doctoral program.

Thesis: Who are the Brunei Dusun: Indigenous Identification and Ethnic Group Formation

## **Universiti Brunei Darussalam**

### **MA Anthropology (By Research) | 2020**

Thesis: Understanding and Framing Middle-Class Bruneians Through Food Choices

## **Universiti Brunei Darussalam**

### **BA Sociology and Anthropology | 2015**

Thesis: Understanding the Multifaceted Identity of the Brunei Dusun

## **Languages**

Languages: English, Malay and Indonesian

IELTS Score – 7.5 (C1)

## **Contact Information**

Japan Address: 611-0011, 206, Leopalace Gokasho II, 5-1 Gokasho Okamoto, Uji-shi, Kyoto

Brunei Address: No. 27, Spg. 71, Kg. Kulapis, Brunei

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- trwbyfaizul@gmail.com
- thereasonablewriter.com

## **Conferences & Guest Lectures**

### | 2026

#### **Presenter at 6th SEASIA Biennial Conference**

#### **“Forging Southeast Asia’s Futures”**

School of Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

### | 2025

#### **Presenter at Transnational Seminar: Reorienting Borneo Studies**

CSEAS, Kyoto University

### | 2025

#### **Guest Lecturer for International Business Studies**

Department of Economics, College of Liberal Arts, Temple University (TUJ), Kyoto, Japan

### | 2025

#### **Guest Lecturer for AZ-4310 Anthropology of Food**

Sociology-Anthropology Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Brunei

# **Educator in Japan**

### **KLC International | 2023-Present**

Native English Teacher

### **Universal Campus | 2023-Present**

Native English Teacher

### **Benesse BE Studio | 2023-Present**

Native Visitation English Teacher

## **Scholarships Awarded**

### **MEXT (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship Recipient | 2022-Present**

### **Brunei Darussalam Government Scholarship (BDGS) | 2012-2020**

## **Visiting Research Scholar**

Ethnography Section of Brunei Museum Departments | 2024-Present

## **Publications**

### | Submitted and Pending

***Being and Becoming Contestation of Identity among the Dusun of Borneo***  
Tariq Modood, Tong Chee-Kiong, Faizul Ibrahim, Yabit Alas and Lian Kwen Fee

### ***Deconstructing Ethnicity in Borneo: The Lowland Dusun of Brunei***

Lian Kwen Fee, Faizul Ibrahim, Yabit Alas and Tong Chee Kiong

### | 2026

***Accommodative Secularism and Cultural Homogenization in Singapore and Borneo***  
Tong Chee Kiong, Faizul Ibrahim, Yabit Alas and Lian Kwen Fee

### ***Ethnic-formation and Social Change: The Lowland Dusun of Brunei 1950s – 1990s***

Lian Kwen Fee, Faizul Ibrahim, Yabit Alas and Tong Chee Kiong

### ***The Last Penan Family in Brunei***

Dk Ain Pg Musa and Faizul Ibrahim

### | 2018-2023

***Food Choices and the Malay Muslim Middle Class in Brunei Darussalam***  
Faizul Ibrahim

***Who are the Dusun in Brunei Representation and Deconstruction of an Ethnic Identity***  
Faizul Ibrahim

***Kitchen Anthropology: Understanding Food, Cooking and Eating in Bruneian Middle-Class Families***  
Faizul Ibrahim